

Amendments to the Claims

1. *(Currently Amended)* Steam iron, comprising:
 - a soleplate (1, 2) having a contacting surface (12) for contacting objects to be ironed, and at least one elevated surface (13, 27) which is located at a higher level than the contacting surface (12);
 - a steam generator (30) for generating steam, which is separately arranged with respect to the soleplate (1, 2); and
 - two separately controllable heating means (20, 31), wherein a first of the heating means (20) is associated with the soleplate (1, 2) and is arranged for heating the soleplate (1, 2), and wherein a second of the heating means (31) is associated with the steam generator (30) and is arranged for heating a content of the steam generator (30);
wherein the heating means (20) associated with the soleplate (1, 2) are exclusively arranged on the at least one elevated surface (13, 27) of the soleplate (1, 2).
2. *(Currently Amended)* Steam iron according to claim 1, wherein the heating means (20) associated with the soleplate (1, 2) comprise at least one flat resistive heating track (20).
3. *(Currently Amended)* Steam iron according to ~~claim 1 or 2~~claim 1, comprising at least one embossed area (11) which is provided in the soleplate (1) and which forms a recess at a bottom side of the soleplate (1), wherein the recess is designed for use as a steam distribution channel during operation of the steam iron.
4. *(Currently Amended)* Steam iron according to claim 3, wherein the heating means (20) associated with the soleplate (1) are arranged on a top surface (13) of the embossed area (11).
5. *(Currently Amended)* Steam iron according to ~~claim 3 or 4~~claim 3, comprising a wire mesh (15) for covering a bottom side of the embossed area (11).

6. *(Currently Amended)* Steam iron according to claim 5, wherein the wire mesh (15) is attached to the soleplate (1) by means of detachably arranged fastening means (16).

7. *(Currently Amended)* Steam iron according to claim 1, wherein the soleplate (2) comprises at least one steam opening (18) for letting through steam to the objects to be ironed, and at least one canopy (25) covering said at least one steam opening (18), whereby a canopy chamber (28) is delimited which is designed for use as a steam distribution chamber during operation of the steam iron.

8. *(Currently Amended)* Steam iron according to claim 7, wherein the heating means (20) associated with the soleplate (2) are arranged on a roof plate (27) of the canopy (25).

9. *(Currently Amended)* Soleplate for a steam iron according to ~~any of claims 1 to 6~~ claim 1, comprising a substantially planar sheet (10) and at least one embossed area (11) provided in said sheet (10).

10. *(Currently Amended)* Soleplate for a steam iron according to ~~claim 7 or 8~~ claim 7, comprising a substantially planar sheet (10), at least one steam opening (18) arranged in said sheet (10), and at least one canopy (25) covering said at least one steam opening (18).